



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.11

36

MONDAY 28TH JULY, 2025

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTING HELD ON
MONDAY 23RD JUNE, 2025**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

PAPERS

1* House of Assembly Paper No. 10 of 2025

NTRC Universal Service Funds (USF) Annual Report 2024

Financial Statement for the year ended December 31st, 2024

(Honourable Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

Since 2001, the government has promised to improve the conditions and operations of the fisheries centres, to enable our country to once again export seafood to EU markets such as Martinique but we are still barred from doing so.

Will the Honourable Minister please explain why after nearly 25 years those efforts have not succeeded and SVG is still unable to export seafood directly to EU market.

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2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

Many kidney patients who seek dialysis treatment at the Medical Centre in Georgetown travel from the Leeward areas and the Grenadines to do so, incurring severe physical hardships and high costs to get to the medical facility in Georgetown.

Will the Honourable Minister consider implementing a shuttle bus service or similar transportation system from Kingstown to make it less costly and less physically demanding for patients to travel to Georgetown for treatment.

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture:

Tourist sites are critically important to our tourism industry as they enable taxi and tour operators to provide enhanced services to visitors and thereby derive additional benefit from the industry. Yet many tourist sites in the country are underdeveloped or in poor condition.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

Whether, in preparation for the upcoming tourist season, the government will repair and develop tourism sites including Fort Hamilton in Bequia that needs a restroom and other improvements.

4. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

In a recent answer provided by you to a question posed by me as the duly elected Representative for the constituency of Central Kingstown; you responded and or intimated that my request would be attended to by a declared candidate of the ULP, who you named.

- i. Would you please indicate when this appointment was made and the contractual terms and auditions including salary;
- ii. Detail the duties of his appointment and explain the authority for the involvement of this individual in duties that would otherwise be discharged by a Senior Public Servant; and
- iii. Explain whether this practice accords with good Governance, Accountability and Transparency.

5. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

In your 2025 Budget Address you listed the Lodge Village Health Clinic as one where construction will commence this year.

- i. Please indicate whether in fact designs for this facility have been completed;
- ii. When is construction expected to begin and finish; and
- iii. Whether the staffing and operational requirements are provided for in this year's Estimates.

6. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

After approaching twenty-five (25) years in office; there has been no allocation for hard court sporting facilities in Redemption Sharpes, Kingstown Park or Largo Height.

In addition, no capital allocation has been set aside for the improvement of the Redemption Sharpes Playing Field during this period.

Will the Honourable Minister state:

- i. What are the immediate plans for the improvement of the playing surfaces, change rooms and bathrooms for the fields in Redemption Sharpes and Largo Height; and

- ii. Please indicate the reasons why there has been no allocations for the lighting of the Redemption Sharpes Playing Field and the Largo Height Playing Field.

7. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

In wrapping up the Budget debate for financial year (FY) 2024, Finance Minister Camillo Gonsalves described it as an East St. George Budget and highlighted the need for a secondary school in East St. George. He justified it with references to large size of the population and proximity to schools, which he said was a key determinant of success in education.

Will the Honourable Minister please provide an update on the following:

- i. The proposed secondary school was scheduled to begin in the second half of 2024. We are now into the second half of 2025 and to date we have heard nothing about location of the school or seen drawings of the proposed school. When can we expect to be advised of this;
- ii. The Honourable Minister indicated that funding for the project had been secured from the Saudi Fund for Development; what is the estimated cost of construction and has the project gone out to tender; and
- iii. In light of the high unemployment, especially amongst youths, in East St. George, has the government included a wing where skills training opportunities will be made available to anyone willing to access such training to earn a living.

8. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and The Environment:

There appears to be an increase in the number of rats at the MCMH.

Would the Honourable Minister please say:

- i. Is the Ministry aware of this development;
- ii. Is there any program in place to treat this matter urgently and effectively; and
- iii. Is the filling of the various hallways and walk ways in the hospital with what can only be described as solid waste, a contributory factor to the presence of rats and other vermin at the hospital.

9. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and The Environment:

The batch of Registered Nurse (RN) at the Associate Degree level which started in 2021 has been experiencing significant obstacles to completing their program, testing, and certification. Given the importance of certification and the ever-constant need for quality nurses.

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. What are the issues that are a road block to completion of training for this batch;
- ii. When would the blocks be removed; and
- iii. Given the anxiety caused to this batch that endured COVID, Soufriere eruption, and Hurricane Beryl, what further efforts are afoot to assist with a satisfactory resolution of their stressing problem.

10. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

Recently Mr Eli Slater emerged as fisherman of the year for 2025, a testament of the scale and quality of fisherfolk in the village of Clare Valley. However, the fishing complex there has been in a terrible state of disrepair for 25 years.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when that facility will be repaired and retrofitted to accommodate the storage of fish and equipment.

11. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

The road between Rillan Hill and Penniston was badly damaged by heavy equipment taking materials to a recently constructed resort. Repairs began on that road for more than a year, making it very difficult for motorists and pedestrians to traverse because some areas are very hard to maneuver.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. When that road will be completed;
- ii. The cost of rehabilitating the road; and
- iii. Is there any change in the original cost and intended duration to complete the road.

12. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

The recent increase in gas prices impacts the high and increasing cost of living.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Explain to what extent does the recent increase in the price of gas impact the overall cost of living; and
- ii. Indicate what is the government doing to ease the impact of inflation on the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines especially in light of this recent increase in the price of gasoline.

13. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlement, Youth and Sports:

The passage and devastation of Hurricane Beryl on July 1st, 2024 (just over a year ago) left many houses and other infrastructure across St. Vincent and the Grenadines severely damaged. In the constituency of East Kingstown, I identified and reported to your ministry, more than one hundred houses which experienced damage that required repairs.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Indicate how many houses in East Kingstown were assessed by your government as damaged by Hurricane Beryl;
- ii. State how many of those houses in East Kingstown have been repaired by the government; and
- iii. Explain why are some houses in East Kingstown still not repaired even after more than a year of being damaged.

14. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

In his 2024 45th anniversary of Independence Address, the Honourable Prime Minister indicated that between December 2024 and February 2025, a special Cost-of-living Allowance (COLA special) of \$175 monthly would be granted to three thousand means tested, particularly vulnerable household.

Would the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Report whether and how was this initiative implemented:
- ii. If not implemented, why not: and
- iii. Assess the economic impact of this initiative on the recipients.

15. The Honourable Israel Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

During your 2018 Budget Speech mention was made of an Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS).

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. To what extent have we seen an improvement in the Records Management System that can facilitate integration between the Registry of Birth and Death and the Electoral Office so as to aid in cleaning up of the Voters /Electoral List;
- ii. To what extent is there integration across and/or between our Records Management System so that between the Immigration and the Electoral Department they can immediately know when someone has been out of the country for 5 years consecutively so as to aid in the cleaning up of our Voters/Electoral List; and
- iii. To what extent can the Electronic Documents component of this project facilitate the creation of a St Vincent & the Grenadines National Identification Card void of a voters' identification number so that persons who are not desirous or those who are not qualified to be registered as a voter can still apply for and obtain a National ID card.

16. The Honourable Israel Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

The Petrocaribe program started in 2005 and enabled the SVG Government to earn money as a loan to be repaid to the government of Venezuela.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. How much money the government received under the program since it started; and
- ii. How much money, if any, our government owes under the program.

17. Honourable Israel Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlement, Youth and Sports:

The hardcourts in Greiggs, Lauders and Lower Lowmans have been in a deplorable state for many years which makes it difficult for the young people of the villages to utilize.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. Are there any plans to rehabilitate these hardcourts so the young people of Greiggs, Lauders, Lowmans and surrounding villages can use them effectively; and
- ii. If so, will the Honourable Minister give the young people of these villages the assurance that these hardcourts will be refurbished soon and floodlights will also be installed.

18. The Honourable Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and The Environment:

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection is now a well-established cause of cervical cancer worldwide.

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. What is the prevalence of the HPV infection in SVG;
- ii. Which age group was targeted for the HPV vaccine and why; and
- iii. Give an update on the HPV vaccine process over the last 2 years.

19. The Honourable Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

Could the Honourable Minister give an update on the fish catch in the three fishing villages of Fancy, Owia, and Sandy Bay in the Fisheries Zone 7 of St. Vincent for the year 2024.

20. The Honourable Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Regional Integration and the Diaspora:

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. The number of persons trained in the Garifuna language and dance in the year 2024, including the age group of the persons trained; and
- ii. Which communities were targeted for the training of the Garifuna language and dance in 2024 and why.

ORDERS OF THE DAY
(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

1* Magistrates’ Court (Virtual Evidence) Bill 2025 (Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security)	1 st Reading
2* Beach Vending Bill 2025 (Honourable Minister of Tourism)	1 st Reading
3* Employment of Foreign Nationals and Commonwealth Citizens (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs)	1 st Reading
4* 1975 Men’s West Indies World Cup Cricket Team Citizenship Bill, 2025 (Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security)	1 st Reading
5* Pharmacy Bill, 2025 (Honourable Minister of Health)	Select Committee
6* Legal Profession Bill, 2025 (Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security)	Reports from Select Committee

ADJOURNMENT